



MIDDLEFIELD

Hampshire County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

Middlefield is a small rural hilltown with a population under 500. It is located in the center of the land area between the Connecticut River and New York State. The 1800-foot altitude of the town center provides panoramic views across the surrounding countryside. Points of interest include Glendale Falls, keystone railroad arches, an abandoned soapstone quarry and a clutch of scenic rivers.

In keeping with its strong agricultural background, Middlefield hosts an annual agricultural fair, a 138-year old tradition of the town. Historically the town was also home to a flourishing woolen mill trade that boomed in the late 1800's when the town's population peaked at over 1,000 people. Small farms are still the largest employers in town and the small general store, a mail order business and a few local artisans comprise the local industry profile.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

West central Massachusetts, bordered by Worthington on the northeast, Chester on the southeast, Becket on the southwest, Washington on the west, and Peru on the northwest. Middlefield is 19 miles southeast of Pittsfield and 123 miles west of Boston.

Total Area: 24.17 sq. miles

Land Area: 24.16 sq. miles

Population: 392

Density: 16 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Knightville Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.7°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Becket, Chester, Peru, Worthington

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 623-8966

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1783

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	309		
Democrats	89	28.8	%
Republicans	51	16.5	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	169	54.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Middlefield town, Hampshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	542	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	542	100.0
Male.....	276	50.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	3	0.6
Female.....	266	49.1	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	28	5.2	Puerto Rican.....	-	-
5 to 9 years.....	38	7.0	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	39	6.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	3	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	41	7.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	539	99.4
20 to 24 years.....	17	3.1	White alone.....	533	98.3
25 to 34 years.....	57	10.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	112	20.7	Total population.....	542	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	107	19.7	In households.....	542	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	38	7.0	Householder.....	213	39.3
60 to 64 years.....	19	3.5	Spouse.....	142	26.2
65 to 74 years.....	27	5.0	Child.....	145	26.8
75 to 84 years.....	22	4.1	Own child under 18 years.....	109	20.1
85 years and over.....	3	0.6	Other relatives.....	13	2.4
Median age (years).....	40.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	9	1.7
18 years and over.....	417	76.9	Nonrelatives.....	29	5.4
Male.....	210	38.7	Unmarried partner.....	18	3.3
Female.....	207	38.2	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	398	73.4	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	62	11.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	52	9.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	22	4.1	Total households.....	213	100.0
Female.....	30	5.5	Family households (families).....	161	75.6
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	61	28.6
One race.....	539	99.4	Married-couple family.....	142	66.7
White.....	536	98.9	With own children under 18 years.....	51	23.9
Black or African American.....	1	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	11	5.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	7	3.3
Asian.....	-	-	Nonfamily households.....	52	24.4
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	37	17.4
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	13	6.1
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	66	30.5
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	35	16.4
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.54	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.86	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	263	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	213	81.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	50	19.0
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	34	12.9
Some other race.....	1	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.0	(X)
Two or more races.....	3	0.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	-	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	213	100.0
White.....	539	99.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	196	92.0
Black or African American.....	1	0.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	17	8.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	0.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.55	(X)
Asian.....	-	-	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.53	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	1	0.2			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Middlefield is located between the Berkshires and the Pioneer Valley region. Although there are no numbered state highways in the town, its proximity to U.S. Route 20 provides good access to the airport and rail facilities.

Major Highways

There are no numbered state highways in Middlefield. Local roads link up to the principal highways in the region, State Route 8 and cross-state U.S. Route 20, which runs through the neighboring towns of Chester and Becket.

Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Middlefield, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Middlefield is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). There is no fixed route service. FRTA provides limited paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Middlefield Council on Aging.

Other

The Pittsfield Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Pittsfield, has 2 asphalt runways 3,496' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Scheduled airline service is available in Albany, New York, and at Bradley Field in Connecticut (both approx. an hour from Pittsfield).



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.